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SIPDIS

FROM THE U.S. MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

USDA FOREST SERVICE FOR FOREST CHIEF BOSWORTH, V.  
MEZAINIS, J. LEVIY AND D. INGRAM

STATE FOR IO/EDA KOTOK AND OES/ENV CASWELL, MCALPINE AND  
BROWN  
USDA/FAS FOR RICHARD HUGHES  
NAIROBI FOR UNEP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [EAGR](#) [SENV](#) [FAO](#)

SUBJECT: REPORT OF FAO FORESTRY COMMITTEE 2003

11. SUMMARY. THE 16TH SESSION OF THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) BIENNIAL COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) FEATURED AN INNOVATIVE FORMAT THAT ALLOWED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON INFORMAL TECHNICAL EXCHANGES ON TECHNICAL ISSUES AND FORESTRY PROGRAM AREAS OF AND DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES AND AREAS OF WORK OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE AND FAOMEMBERS. THE MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOWED APPRECIATION TO FAO FOR PROVIDING DETAILED PROGRAMS OF WORK AND BUDGET THAT ALLOWED THE PROVISION OF DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET ALLOWED FOR THOUGHTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK ON MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES IN FORESTRY. THERE WAS STRONG MEMBERS COUNTRY SUPPORTED FOR FAO'S NEW EMPHASIS ON THE ISSUES OF WATER AND FORESTS, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS, FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION. DELEGATIONS MEMBERS ALSO SUPPORTED APPLAUDED FAO'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS. THESE EFFORTS INCLUDED WITH A MULTI-REGION PANEL THAT DISCUSSED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS (IPF) AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS (IPF/IFF) PROPOSALS FOR ACTION DURING PLENARY AND RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT AND TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF THE ROLE OF NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMS AS A TOOL FOR HELPING COUNTRIES TO BE USED BY COUNTRIES AS ONE OF THEIR TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. BRAZILIAN DELEGATE, MR. FLAVIO MIRAGAIA PERRI, BRAZIL, CHAIRED THE SESSION, AND ??? OF ??? WAS 1ST VICE-CHAIR. END SUMMARY.

12. THE 16TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION'S (FAO'S) COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) HELD ITS BIENNIAL MEETING IN ROME, ITALY MARCH 10-14, 2003, PRECEDED BY TWO, ONE DAY MEETINGS OF FAO'S REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS AND THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF). THE U.S. DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE USDA FOREST SERVICE CHIEF DALE BOSWORTH, COMPRISED AMBASSADOR THE HONORABLE TONY P. HALL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME; VALDIS MEZAINIS, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS; JERILYN LEVI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; DENISE INGRAM, ECONOMIC POLICY ADVISOR AND DONNA JANISCH, PROGRAM ANALYST OF THE USDA FOREST SERVICE; RICHARD HUGHES (USDA/FAS); STEPHANIE CASWELL, (STATE/OES); JAN MCALPINE (STATE/OES); ED BROWN (STATE/OES); JON ANDERSON (AID/AFR); ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES LUCY TAMLIN AND ; KATIE NISHIURAXXXX; AND PRIVATE SECTOR ADVISORS GERALD ROSE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS AND MARVIN BROWN OF THE AMERICAN FOREST AND PAPER ASSOCIATION.

13. FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVID HARCHARIK OPENED THE MEETING WITH REMARKS ON THE ONGOING EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED STRATEGIC PLANNING WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. MR. HARCHARIK HIGHLIGHTED FAO'S EXPANDED INCORPORATION OF INFORMAL SESSIONS AND SIDE MEETINGS WITHIN THE COFO AGENDA. NOTE: THE U.S. WARMLY ENDORSED THIS APPROACH AS IT THIS NEW APPROACH CONTINUES TO BE ENDORSED BY THE U.S. AS IT ENHANCES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WEEK-LONG MEETING. END NOTE.

14. AMBASSADOR MR. FLAVIO MIRAGAIA PERRI (, BRAZIL), WAS ELECTED TO THE CHAIR. AND ???, TO FIRST VICE CHAIR. UNDER HIS PRODUCTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP, COFO DELEGATES ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF TOPICS FURTHER DETAILED BELOW.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS REPORT  
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15. STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS REPORT DELEGATES APPLAUDED THE COMPREHENSIVE SCOPE OF THE REPORT AND ITS USEFULNESS AS A POLICY AND PLANNING TOOL FOR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES. THE REPORT IS ONE OF MANY OUTPUTS THAT RESULT FROM ONE OF

FAO'S CORE MANDATES TO PROVIDE TIMELY MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF FOREST INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE. THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CRITICAL TECHNICAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE VALUATION OF HYDROLOGICAL AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SERVICES FROM FORESTS. THE DDELEGATES ALSO UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF FAO'S CONTINUED WORK IN THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF) AND JOINED THE COMMITTEE IN APPLAUDING APPLAUDED THE LEADERSHIP OF FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL HOSNY EL LAKANY IN THE CPF AND THE UN FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF), PARTICULARLY WITH REGARDS TO THE

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#### MISSIONS

16. REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS. THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTEDAPPLAUDED FAO'S EFFORTS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES. THE COFO ELEVATED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CCOMMISSIONS BY BRINGING THEM INTO INTERACTIVE DEBATE POSING A QUESTION TO THE COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THEIR ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE. COUNTRIES WELCOMED THE INNOVATIVE APPROACH OF USING A PANEL OF RREGIONAL CCOMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COFO. A VARIETY OF SUGGESTIONS SURFACED FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT WOULD LEVERAGE THE RREGIONAL CCOMMISSIONS' COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF BUILDING NETWORKS, FOCUSING TECHNICAL FOCUS ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ISSUES, AND ENHANCING CO-OPERATION AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, COFO SUPPORTED AUSTRALIA'S A SUGGESTION WAS PUT FORTH BY AUSTRALIA FOR FAO TO ESTABLISH A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS FAMILIAR WITH THE IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTIONS TO ASSESS AND ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSALS WITH COUNTRIES.

#### FORESTS AND FRESHWATER

17. FOREST AND FRESHWATER. WATER AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ISSUES CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNIZED BY GLOBAL RESOURCE COMMUNITIES AS CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THE EMPHASIS ON WATER ISSUES REFLECTS PRIORITIES EXPRESSED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION IN 2001 DURING THE 15THTH SESSION OF COFO. IT ALSO ECHOES PARALLEL ATTENTION IN 2003 THROUGH FORUMS SUCH AS THE WORLD FORUM ON WATER BEING HELD IN JAPAN. THE DELEGATES APPLAUDED FAO'S RECOGNITION OF WATER ISSUES AND THE NEW ENTITY IN THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR 2004-09. IN PARTICULAR, MEMBER COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR IMPROVED CROSS-SECTORAL PLANNING AND STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF DECISIONS IN OTHER SECTORS ON FORESTS AND WATER RESOURCES AND THE DELIVERY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FROM THEM.

#### NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMS

18. NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMS. DURING THIS MEETING THERE WAS AN THE FAO PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMS (NFPSNFPSS) AND THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAM FACILITY (NFPF). THE PROCESS OF SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF NFPSNFPSS HAS PROGRESSED CONSIDERABLY INTO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP PARTICIPATORY AND MULTI-SECTORAL PROCESSES BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AS PART OF THEIR OVERALL SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS YET TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FACILITY, THE FUNDING ARM OF THE NFPSNFPSS, IT SUPPORTS THE STRATEGY OF LINKING NFPSNFPSS TO BROADER COMMITMENTS SUCH AS THOSE FROM THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT:FIVE YEARS LATER FIVE YEARS LATER AND THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. DELEGATES RECOGNIZED THE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NFPSNFPSS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENTS IN FOOD SECURITY, POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES.

#### FAO FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA

19. FAO FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA. THE DDELEGATES PRAISED FAO FOR A HIGH QUALITY STUDY AND FOR PROVIDING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TRENDS AND IDENTIFYING PRIORITY AREAS FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS. THE U. 19. HIGHLIGHTED ITS MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN INITIATIVES WITH PARTNERS IN AFRICA THAT IN SUPPORT OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN AN ARRAY OF ECOSYSTEMS. THESE INCLUDE SUCH AS THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP (CBFP) LAUNCHED AT THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN JOHANNESBURG IN SEPTEMBER 2002 AND A U.S.-FUNDED HOSTING A MINISTERIAL MEETING ON AFRICA FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE, SCHEDULED FOR TO MEET IN CAMEROON APRIL 1-4, 2003. THE U.S. THROUGH USAID) CO-

HOSTED A SIDE EVENT SATELLITE SESSION WITH THE CENTER

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DRESSES THE LINKAGES  
BETWEEN NATURE, WEALTH AND POWER AND THE NEED FOR LOCAL,  
COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATION IN NATURAL RESOURCES  
DECISION-MAKING.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

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10. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR. DELEGATES  
TO THE 16TH SESSION OF COFO WERE ASKED TO COMMENT ON  
FAO'S IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM  
THE 15TH SESSION. MEMBER COUNTRIES APPLAUDED WELCOMED  
FAO'S ATTENTION TO PRIORITY ISSUES AND EXPANDED COVERAGE  
OF THE ISSUES THROUGH SIDE EVENTS DURING THE CURRENT  
SESSION. FAO WAS ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON ITS  
ROLE AND MANDATE AS A NEUTRAL FACILITATOR AND LEADER IN  
GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS. IN  
PARTICULAR, MEMBER COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR FAO TO  
CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN ITS LEADERSHIP IN THE  
COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS (CPF) AND RELATED  
WORK OF THE UNFF. FAO WAS COMMENDED FOR ITS WORK IN  
DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAM FACILITY AS ONE  
TOOL FOR ASSISTING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP PROCESSES FOR  
NATIONAL PLANNING IN THE FOREST SECTOR THROUGH  
PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND THE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS  
WITH CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST  
MANAGEMENT. MEMBER COUNTRIES EMPHASIZED THAT WAS  
GIVEN TO EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH AS CRITICAL TO  
CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC  
INSTITUTIONS IN CROSS-SECTORAL STUDIES IN SUPPORT OF THE  
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF FORESTS.

DEFINING OBJECTIVES AND THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND KEY  
CROSS-CUTTING AREAS OF WORK

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11. DEFINING OBJECTIVES AND THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND KEY  
CROSS-CUTTING AREAS OF WORK. DELEGATES APPLAUDED  
WELCOMED FAO ON THE INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND DETAIL OF  
THE PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET AS THIS THAT AFFORDED  
MEMBER COUNTRIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE PAST  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR FORESTRY.  
ADDITIONS TO THE WORK PROGRAM INCLUDED ACTIVITIES  
RELATING TO FORESTS AND WATER,; FOREST AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE,; FORESTS AND , FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY  
ALLEVIATION. THE U.S. STRESSED THE NEED FOR RE-  
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS WITHIN CURRENT LEVELS OF BUDGET TO  
REFLECT NEW EMPHASIS AND PRIORITY. DELEGATES SUPPORTED  
FAO'S FOCUS ON HARMONIZING FOREST-RELATED DEFINITIONS,  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES OF LOW FOREST COVER,  
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION, NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS  
AND SERVICES, AND FOREST HEALTH ISSUES. IN PARTICULAR,  
SEVERAL DELEGATES RECOMMENDED THAT ELEMENTS OF THE  
FEBRUARY 2003 U.S.- SUPPORTED GUATEMALA MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA ON THE CONTRIBUTION  
OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST  
MANAGEMENT (CICI) BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REPORT OF  
COFO. THE OUTCOME OF THE GUATEMALA CONFERENCE SHOULD TO  
FACILITATE THE COORDINATION OF C AND &I PROCESSES,  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING AND TO IMPROVE  
NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION AMONG THE VARIETY OF  
INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCESSES THAT MEMBER  
COUNTRIES MUST PARTICIPATE IN AND REPORT ON.

12. WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS. CANADA PROVIDED SIDE  
EVENTS, AN EXHIBIT AND PROMOTIONAL FILM AND DISCUSSION ON  
THIS YEAR'S WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, TO BE HELD IN QUEBEC  
CITY, CANADA 21-28 SEPTEMBER 2003. AUSTRALIA SUBMITTED A  
PROPOSAL TO HOST THE 2009 CONGRESS.

COMMENT

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13. FINAL THOUGHTS. THE U.S. IS QUITE SUPPORTIVE OF THE  
WORK OF FAO'S FORESTRY ADG, DR. HOSNY EL LAKANY AND HIS  
STAFF CONTINUE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT IN FAO IN  
RESPONSIVENESS TO MEMBER STATES AND PROGRAM EXCELLENCE.  
'S AND HIS EFFORTS IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR. THE UNITED  
STATES DELEGATION PARTICULARLY NOTED HIS APPRECIATES HIS  
COMMITMENT TO THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS,  
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COFO AND HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE  
CPF FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRESS WITH THE UNFF. THE DELEGATION  
ALSO APPRECIATES FAO'S INCREASED BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND  
ITS FAO'S ADHERENCE TO ITS ROLE AS A NEUTRAL FACILITATOR  
AND CONVENER ON CRITICAL TOPICS (E.G., C AND &I, NATIONAL

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DELEGATION TO THE

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF COFO, BENEFITED FROM THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NON-GOVERNMENT AND USG AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DELEGATION. NOTABLY, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUABLE INPUT OF LUCY TAMLYN (STATE/FODAG), KATIE XXX (STATE/FODAG), RICHARD HUGHES (USDA/FAS), ED BROWN (STATE/OES), STEPHANIE CASWELL (STATE/OETS), JAN MCALPINE (STATE/OES)AND JON ANDERSON (AID/AFR).

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